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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 10/772,227 | 02/04/2004 | Michelle L. Verbsky | 12557-016001 | 2417 |
| 26191 | 7590 | 08/09/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. PO BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022 | | | IBRAHIM, MEDINA AHMED | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1638 | |
| | | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 08/09/2007 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Application No. 10/772,227 | Applicant(s) VERBSKY ET AL. |
| Examiner Medina A. Ibrahim | Art Unit 1638 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5,9-20,54-60,74,79-81,86 and 91-93 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 86 and 91-93 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 74 and 79-81 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5,9-20 and 54-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 - Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 - Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Applicant's response filed 06/04/07 in reply to the Office action of 01/03/07 has been considered. Claims 1, 12, 38, 55, 57, 74, 79, and 86 have been amended. Claims 6-8, 21-37, 39-53, 61-73, 75-78, 82-85, and 87-90 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-5, 9-20, 54-60, 74, 79-81, 86, and 91-93 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

claims 86 and 91-93 are amended to recite SEQ ID NO: 42. However, SEQ ID NO: 42 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: SEQ ID NO: 42 or a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO: 42 has not be shown to be a fragment of the elected sequence of SEQ ID NO: 41 or closely related to SEQ ID NO: 41 or a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 41. Also, the search of SEQ ID NO: 41 reveals no structural relationship with SEQ ID NO: 42. Therefore, the coexamination of SEQ ID NO: 42 and a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 42 with the elected sequences SEQ ID NO: 32 and 41 would present search burden upon the Office. Therefore, claims 86 and 91-93, drawn to a transgenic plant harboring a construct comprising a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 42 is withdrawn from consideration.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for

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prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 86 and 91-93 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claims 1-5, 9-20, 54-60, 74, and 79-81 are examined.

All previous objections and rejections not set forth below have been withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendment to the claims and/or upon further consideration.

Double Patenting

Claims 55-60 of this application conflict with claims 55-60 of Application No. 10/912, 534. 37 CFR 1.78(b) provides that when two or more applications filed by the same applicant contain conflicting claims, elimination of such claims from all but one application may be required in the absence of good and sufficient reason for their retention during pendency in more than one application. Applicant is required to either cancel the conflicting claims from all but one application or maintain a clear line of demarcation between the applications. See MPEP § 822.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir.

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1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-5, 9-20, and 54-60, are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 9-20, and 54-60 of copending Application No. 10/912,534. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims in both applications are drawn to transgenic plant comprising SEQ ID NO: 41 or a method of producing said transgenic plant comprising SEQ ID NO: 41. Claims 55 and 118 of the copending application are drawn to a method of producing the transgenic plant of claim 1 or claim 112, wherein the polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 41. The claims of the instant application are drawn to a transgenic plant comprising SEQ ID NO: 41 and a method of producing said plant. All other limitations including substrate structure, regulators elements conferring vegetative tissue expression of the polypeptide, and the specific plants species are identical in claims of both applications. Therefore, the claims in the instant application are obvious variation of the claims in the copending applications.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Remarks

Claims 74 and 79-81 are allowed.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Medina A. Ibrahim whose telephone number is (571) 272-0797. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday -Thursday from 8:00AM to 5:30PM and every other Friday from 9:00AM to 5:00 PM. Before and after final responses should be directed to fax nos. (703) 872-9306 and (703) 872-9307, respectively.

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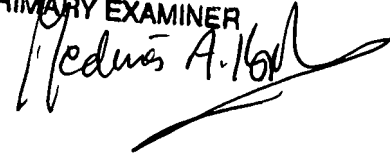
If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg, can be reached at (571) 272-0975.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mai

8/5/07

MEDINA A. IBRAHIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Medina A. Ibrahim", written over the printed name and title.